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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 001673

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/13/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KMPI](#) [BA](#) [RU](#)

SUBJECT: EUR A/S FRIED,S MEETING WITH RUSSIAN DEPUTY  
FOREIGN MINISTER SALTANOV, NOVEMBER 11, 2005, MANAMA,  
BAHRAIN

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 b, d.

1. (SBU) Meeting Held on November 11, 2005, 18:30, at the  
Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Manama, Bahrain

2. (SBU) Participants:

U.S.  
A/S Dan Fried  
Leslie Tsou (TDY Notetaker)

Russia  
Deputy FM Saltanov  
Andrei Kondakov, Economic Cooperation Director  
Oleg Ozerov, Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director

3. (C) Summary. Meeting on the margins of the November 11  
Forum for the Future Senior Officials Meeting in Bahrain,  
Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Saltanov asked for  
clarification of the G8 Presidency,s role towards the Forum,  
since Russia takes over the G8 Presidency in 2006. A/S Fried  
said the Forum has expanded beyond the G8. Russia will wait  
to decide the extent of its commitment until it gauges the  
Middle East reaction to the Forum, Saltanov said. A/S Fried  
urged Russia to support the Forum as strongly as possible,  
noting it is an important front in the global war on terror.  
In any event, Saltanov said Russia would not do anything to  
"cause trouble" at the November 12 Ministerial. End summary.

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Forum for the Future and the G8  
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4. (C) Saltanov complained that Russia did not have enough  
background on the Forum for the Future. Russia will assume  
the G8 Presidency in 2006, he said, and would like to know  
how it will be expected to support the Forum. A/S Fried  
explained the structure of Forum, pointing out that it has  
expanded beyond the G8. Outside the G8, countries such as  
Denmark, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey,  
and Hungary have all made financial contributions, as have  
Yemen, Morocco, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, and Qatar.  
Even the European Union has contributed. The Forum can stand  
on its own without particular G8 support.

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Russia,s Support for the Foundation for the Future  
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5. (C) Saltanov said Russia would study the Foundation  
carefully, but wants to see how the region reacts before  
committing itself, especially financially. A/S Fried urged  
Russia to support the Foundation as much as possible, noting  
that support for democracy and liberal thought in the Broader  
Middle East opens an essential front in the global war on  
terror (GWOT). Saltanov agreed that the GWOT should be  
fought on many levels. Nonetheless, Russia wants to proceed  
carefully, since Middle Eastern societies are very  
traditional and suspicious of outsiders, intentions.  
Reaction in the region is becoming more positive. In any  
case, Saltanov assured A/S Fried that Russia would not be a  
&subversive element8 at the Ministerial meeting November 12.

6. (U) This message has been cleared by A/S Fried.

MONROE